

U.S. Application No. 10/646,806

Docket No.: YOR920000543US2

REMARKS

Claims 20-25 are pending. Each claim defines an invention that is novel and unobvious over the cited art. Favorable consideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or, in the Alternative, Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being obvious in view of Tanaka (5,326,672).

Claim 20 is hereby amended to recite: “a resist image having a feature size of less than about 0.2 microns.” The amended recitations do not comprise new matter in view of support present in the original application at, for example, paragraph [0003] of Pre-Grant Publication US 2004/0038155.¹ Tanaka relates to resist images having feature sizes no smaller than about 0.75 microns. (See Figure 6 of Tanaka demonstrating the minimum feature size obtainable without causing pattern collapse). The present invention distinguishes over Tanaka in view of the smaller feature size obtainable.

In view of the distinction over Tanaka occasioned by the present amendment, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection as moot.

Conclusions:

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

¹ Pre-grant Publication US 2004/0038155 corresponds to the present application.

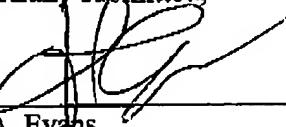
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0510, under Order No. YOR920000543US2.

Date: February 17, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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